

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Attorney Docket No. 03-987)

Appl. No. : 10/701,235 Confirmation No. 5256
Applicant : Robert A. West
Filed : 11/04/2003
Art Unit : 3693
Examiner : Kenneth Bartley

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner,

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough search and examination of the present application and the allowance of the pending claims. In the Notice of Allowance mailed on May 18, 2010 in connection with the present application, the Examiner provided a Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

The Applicant acknowledges the characterization of the claims in view of the prior art put forth in the Reasons for Allowance. However, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Reasons for Allowance may not take into account the entirety of the Applicant's claimed invention as reflected in the claims, the specification, and the prosecution history of the present application. The Applicant believes that the claims, the specification, and the prosecution history in their entirety provide an adequate basis for the allowability of the claims. The Applicant notes that there may be additional reasons that one or more of the claims are allowable that have not been specifically included in the Reasons for Allowance. The Applicant respectfully submits that, notwithstanding the Reasons for Allowance, it is believed that each of the allowed claims is patentable in its own right, for other reasons raised during prosecution and/or explained in the Specification of the present application.

Additionally, specific parts of the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance may pertain to features appearing in some of the claims but not others. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has thoroughly examined the claims, recognized the features appearing or not appearing in each of the claims, and properly found each of the claims to be allowable.

To the extent that the Examiner has paraphrased claim elements, the Applicant hereby respectfully submits that each allowed claim of the present application should be construed in view of the entirety of that claim and limited neither by any of the Examiner's statements nor by the recitation therein of any specific claim elements.

Further, the Reasons for Allowance include statements regarding the disclosure of certain pieces of art. While the Applicant may not necessarily agree with these characterizations of what is disclosed by the art, the Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the claims are allowable over the disclosure of the cited art.

Respectfully submitted,

**MCDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP**

Date: May 28, 2010

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